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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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David W. Jenkins

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EXAMINER

MOUTAOUAKIL, MOUNIR

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2419

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/04/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/738,911	Applicant(s) JENKINS ET AL.	
	Examiner MOUNIR MOUTAOUKIL	Art Unit 2419	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-9 and 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-9, and 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on 04-20-2009 has been entered and entered.

Claims 2-9, and 11-20 are pending in this application.

Claims 1 and 10 are cancelled.

Claims 2-9, and 11-20 are rejected as discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 2-9, and 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dove et al (US 2003/0007502). Hereinafter referred to as Dove.

Regarding claims 19, 18 and 20. Dove discloses a method for grooming network traffic in a digital cross-connect (see figures 3-4). The method comprises grooming inbound traffic at a first transport switch from among multiple transport switches (figs.3 network elements connected to ADSL and POTS grooms traffic to OC3 and vice versa) for at least one local switch (central office), the at least one local switch transmitting the groomed inbound traffic to at least one destination other than the multiple transport switches (see fig.3, groomed traffic is directed to central office which further forwards

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traffic to other subscribers); and grooming, at a second transport switch from among the multiple transport switches (fig.3, network elements) , outbound traffic received at the at least one local switch from at least one source other than the multiple transport switches (figs.3, traffic is groomed by the network elements from low capacity links into a higher capacity links and vice versa), Wherein grooming inbound traffic at the first transport switch includes separating higher speed traffic streams into lower speed traffic streams (Figs.2-4), and grooming outbound traffic at the second transport switch includes packing lower speed traffic streams into higher speed traffic streams (Figs.2-4).

Regarding claim 2. Dove teaches: grooming of inbound and outbound traffic is performed independently (Fig.2-4, the network elements and switches function independently).

Regarding claims 3 and 11. Dove discloses the grooming elements are operating wherein the grooming of inbound and outbound traffic is performed free of tandem tying the first and second transport switches (Figs. 2-4 and 7).

Regarding claims 4 and 12. Dove further discloses including configuring the at least one local switch to operate with the first and second transport switches (Figs. 2-4, central office configured to operate with the network elements).

Regarding claim 5. Dove teaches: performing protocol switching at the at least one local switch (Figs.2-4, network elements switches between different protocols).

Regarding claims 6 and 14. Dove discloses performing grooming at at least a third transport switch (Figs.1-4, there are many network elements in the network).

Regarding claims 7 and 15. Dove teaches that the first and second transport switches are at least one of the following: wideband crossconnect switches, narrowband crossconnect switches, or broadband crossconnect switches (Figs.2-4).

Regarding claims 8 and 16. Dove discloses that the method is performed in a central office (figs 1-4, Central office).

Regarding claims 9 and 17. Dove discloses a method performed in an electrical, optical, or wireless network (Figs1-4).

Regarding claim 13. Dove discloses a system for grooming network traffic in a digital cross-connect (figs.2-4). The system comprises a first transport switch that grooms inbound traffic into different forms of lower-bandwidth signals for multiple protocol switches that handle traffic of different protocols (fig.2-4); and a second transport switch that grooms outbound traffic for the multiple protocol switches (figs.2-4).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 04-20-2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. Applicants' representative argues that the prior art of record fails to teach "grooming inbound traffic at the first transport switch includes separating higher speed traffic streams into lower speed traffic streams".

5. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Dove, the prior art of record, discloses a bidirectional grooming method which grooms lower speed traffic into higher speed and vice versa. Therefore, the argued limitation is taught by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

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When responding to this office action, applicants are advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty which they think the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. Applicants must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. See 37C.F.R 1.111(c). In addition, applicants are advised to provide the examiner with the line numbers and pages numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist examiner in locating the appropriate paragraphs.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MOUNIR MOUTAOUAKIL whose telephone number is (571)270-1416. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (1pm-4:30pm) eastern time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. M./

Examiner, Art Unit 2419

/Ayaz R. Sheikh/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2419